

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1 - 19 were originally pending in this application. The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1 - 8, drawn to a method of manufacturing, classified in Class 264, Subclass 255
- II. Claims 9 - 19, drawn to a trim panel assembly, classified in Class 296, Subclass 24.34.

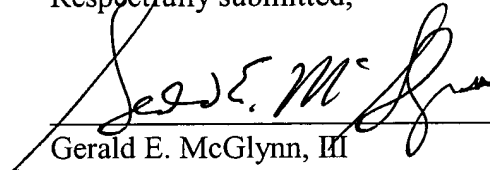
The Examiner found that the inventions are distinct, each from the other, because inventions I and II are related as the process of making and the product made. More specifically, the Examiner found that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different products. Alternatively, the Examiner found that the product as claimed could be made by another and materially different process. Specifically, the Examiner found that the trim panel assembly could be made by another, materially different process. Thus, the Examiner asserts that the inventions I and II have acquired a separate status in the art, as shown by their different classification. Applicant respectfully traverses the Restriction Requirement.

The invention of group I is directed toward a method of manufacturing a trim panel assembly. The invention of group II is directed toward a trim panel assembly that results from the method described in group I. Applicant respectfully submits that the invention of group II could only be made by the method of group I. Accordingly, the inventions of group I and II are related and could all be searched together. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Restriction Requirement is improper and should be withdrawn.

Nevertheless, in reply to the Examiner's requirement, applicant provisionally elects to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 1 - 8, drawn to the method of manufacturing a trim panel assembly for the interior of a vehicle.

Finally, it is respectfully submitted that the claims clearly distinguish over the prior art, and are therefore allowable, which allowance is respectfully solicited

Respectfully submitted,



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